

For immediate release
4:30 p.m., August 16, 2006

HIGH RIO GRANDE FLOWS RETURN TO EL PASO; PEAK FLOW EXPECTED TO BE HALF THAT OF AUGUST 1

Due to locally heavy rainfall in Southern New Mexico on August 16, the Rio Grande is experiencing high flow. Although some overflowing of the banks of the river channel is being experienced, flows are expected to remain in the floodway, well within the capacity of the United States flood control levees. Residents should keep abreast of National Weather Service bulletins for up-to-date Rio Grande forecasts as additional local rainfall could increase projected flows.

A peak flow of 5200 cubic feet per second (cfs) was experienced at Canutillo, Texas at 11:00 a.m. on August 16. The high flows are expected to affect the El Paso area from approximately 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. on August 16. Above normal flows in the Rio Grande will continue in El Paso through August 17 as flows from the August 15 storm in Hatch, New Mexico reach the greater El Paso area.

By comparison, Rio Grande flow at El Paso on August 1 approached 10,000 cfs following intense local rainstorms. During the August 1 storm, United States flood control levees successfully contained the floodwaters.

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is responsible for operating the Rio Grande Flood Control Project in the United States.

For more information:

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